

U-2R AIRCRAFT OPTIONS
(U-2 C/G are in Flyable Storage)

I. Recommended Agency Positions in order of preference:

A. U-2R operation consolidated under CIA. Aircraft numbers discussed below in paragraph II C.

B. Option 1: Retain separate CIA and SAC U-2R fleets.

II. Discussion:

A. The U-2R capability offered by the CIA continues to provide a vital option to meet varying contingency situations and to provide a fall back capability if other reconnaissance systems are neutralized. Thus, it allows a plausibly deniable alternative method of collecting desired intelligence without provocative military implications.



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C. Thus, we believe that CIA should retain its covert capability. If consolidation of U-2R operations under a single manager is desirable, it should be under the CIA. The present SAC missions are functionally more covert than overt and more properly belong under CIA. The number of aircraft (and the option selected) would depend upon continuance of CIA missions (6 aircraft) and assumption of designated SAC missions by CIA.

D. Cost comparisons are misleading because SAC figures do not reflect total program cost to the government. (Personnel and facilities costs are excluded.)



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F. We conclude, therefore, that CIA should retain the U-2R capability.